FERTILIZERS

Generally, between 200 and 250 lbs. of actual nitrogen per acre and 144 and 200 lbs of P₂O₅ are applied. All P₂O₅ and 33 to 50 lbs of nitrogen are usually broadcast before listing followed by two sidedressings of nitrogen.

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Mites, thrips, armyworms, leaf-miners, maggots, downy mildew and nematodes may be problems. Pink root is a soil-borne disease affecting onions. Varieties resistant to pink root are available.

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The onions are machine topped, undercut and covered with a fine layer of soil to cure before harvesting. The onions are then machine dug and lifted to a sorter to remove clods and excess debris before loading on a truck and trailer for shipment to the dehydrator plant. All harvesting costs are borne by contractor.

dehydrator onion sample costs and production

Prepared by
Imperial County Agricultural Extension Staff
Revised September 1975

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Agricultural Extension
University of California
Imperial County
Court House, El Centro

Cost Data Sheet No. 18

UC Cooperative Extension
**DEHYDRATOR ONIONS--PROJECTED PRODUCTION COSTS**

Mechanical operations at custom rates. Hand labor at $3.75 per hour ($3.00 plus Social Security, unemployment insurance, transportation, supervision and fringe benefits).

Yield - 15 tons. 150 + days to maturity.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPERATION</th>
<th>Custom Rate</th>
<th>MATERIALS</th>
<th>HAND LABOR#</th>
<th>SAMPLE COSTS Per Acre</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Cost Hours</td>
<td>Dollars</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LAND PREPARATION</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Subsoil</td>
<td>12.50</td>
<td>Water .75 ft/A</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>12.50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc 2x</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>400# 11-48-0</td>
<td>2.63</td>
<td>3.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Border &amp; break</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flood</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilize</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>400# 11-48-0</td>
<td>40.00</td>
<td>43.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disc 2x</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Landplane 2x</td>
<td>5.00</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>List</td>
<td>6.00</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL LAND PREPARATION</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GROWING PERIOD</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Plant</td>
<td>6.50</td>
<td>Seed 2#</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Herbicide 2x</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Dacthal &amp; sulfuric acid</td>
<td>53.00</td>
<td>59.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cultivate 4x</td>
<td>5.00</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fertilize – side-</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass 2x</td>
<td>4.50</td>
<td>300# N &amp; 25#</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weed 2x</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>63.75</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sprinkler Irrigate</td>
<td>35.00</td>
<td>33.75</td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Irrigate 12x</td>
<td>15.75</td>
<td>56.25#</td>
<td>15</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pest Control 2x</td>
<td>3.00</td>
<td>Pesticides</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>GROWING PERIOD &amp; LAND PREP COSTS</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Land Rent (new lease)</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cash Overhead - 12% of preharvest costs and land rent</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

TOTAL PREHARVEST COSTS **$725.99**

**HARVEST COSTS:** None - Production contract to pay 52.00/ton return to grower.

Cost per ton to produce = $47.67

*Includes shovel labor, pipe setting and miscellaneous tractor work.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>YEAR</th>
<th>ACRES</th>
<th>YIELD/ACRE</th>
<th>VALUE/TON</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>10.00</td>
<td>$31.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1971</td>
<td>500</td>
<td>12.60</td>
<td>32.34</td>
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<tr>
<td>1972</td>
<td>1230</td>
<td>13.00</td>
<td>32.75</td>
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<tr>
<td>1973</td>
<td>1680</td>
<td>13.10</td>
<td>33.64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1974</td>
<td>3000</td>
<td>12.00</td>
<td>45.72</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**PLANTING DATE:** Contracting companies recommend the planting date to the grower and supply him with the seed. Planting dates may differ with variety but the current 75-76 crop will be planted between October 25 - November 20.

**VARIETIES:** Most dehydrator onions are white creole derivatives selected for a high soluble solids content. The seed is supplied by the dehydrator.

**SOILS:** Onions require soils with a low salt content. Sandy or medium textured soils are the best adapted.

**IRRIGATION:** Until two or three weeks before intended harvest, onions should never suffer for lack of water. Weather and soil conditions determine the number of irrigations. Seven to 12 times are normal. Irrigation costs listed include the use of sprinklers for germination. Also included are costs for shovel work, pipe setting and grading.
FERTILIZERS

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